



4. Issues

The present study began with the identification of appropriate stakeholder participants. DWR identified the responsible organizations and departments, who then selected representatives to participate in the meetings and discussions. The list of participants is contained in Section 10, Acknowledgements.

The study participants were asked to suggest issues that could be important in the evaluation of the impacts resulting from changing the water surface elevation of Lake Perris or the height of the dam. The issues were the subject of discussions within separate issue teams as well as in the larger group meetings that took place as part of the study. The study objective was to evaluate them in the options/issues matrices. Minutes of the meetings are included in the Appendix.

The major issues that were considered are:

- Construction Magnitude
- Water Storage
- Recreation
- Environment
- Property
- Operations
- Water Quality
- Dam Risk and Safety
- Regional Socio-Economic
- Seepage/Groundwater
- Schedule
- Permitting
- Contractual Agreements

Many of these major issues contained sub-issues that were considered and evaluated to achieve the evaluation of the major issue. These are identified in the matrix tables of Section 6.

Several of the major issues relate to the area around the reservoir. Approximately 6000 acres of land surrounding the lake and the 2300 acres lake itself are operated as the Lake Perris State Recreation Area by the DPR. The recreation area attracts over a



million visitors each year. It is one of the largest water-oriented recreation areas in the inland area of Southern California. In addition, the area around the lake is home to several threatened and endangered species of wildlife plus many more common species. Most of the land has been designated as protected habitat under the Riverside County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan. The Recreation Area has become nearly surrounded by urbanization; this is the source of several other issues, including dam safety, socio-economic issues and construction disturbances. Figure 4.1 illustrates some of the recreation activities that take place in the Recreation Area. Figure 4.2 shows the riparian area along the reservoir shoreline, and Figure 4.3 illustrates the urban encroachment that has occurred around the dam and reservoir.

Construction Magnitude is the issue which represents the effort and cost that are required to implement the necessary changes for each reservoir option. In most cases, and particularly for the dam and reservoir enlargements, it is the most significant issue. A qualitative comparison shows that the construction costs will exceed all other mitigation costs, often by a wide margin.

The evaluation of the issue of Water Storage puts a qualitative value on the gain or loss of water supply storage within the MWD system. The ratings are based upon whether the storage is needed to enhance the system and difficulty or cost of providing an alternative source of storage.

Figure 4.1 Recreation Activities

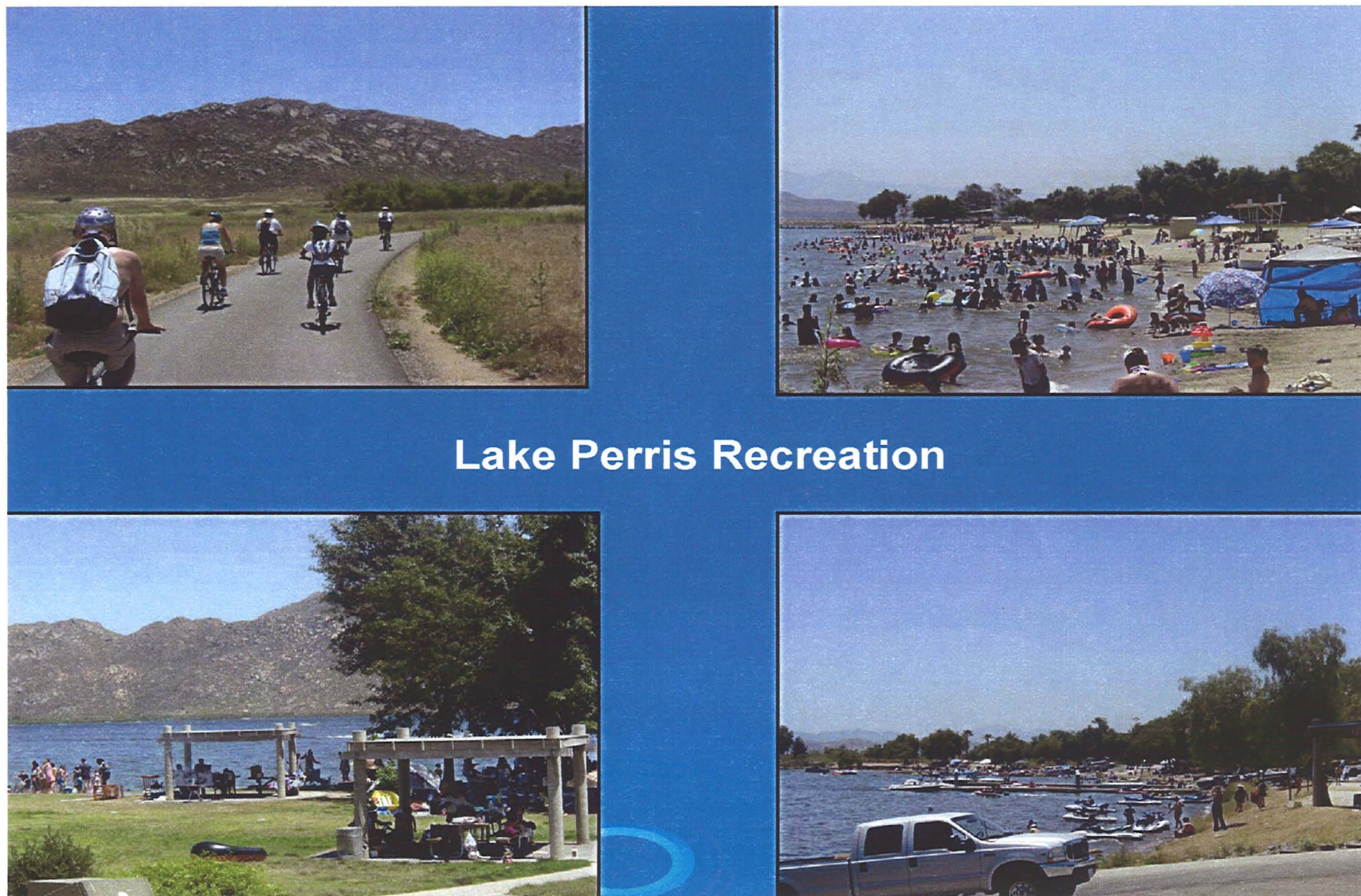




Figure 4.2 Riparian Area

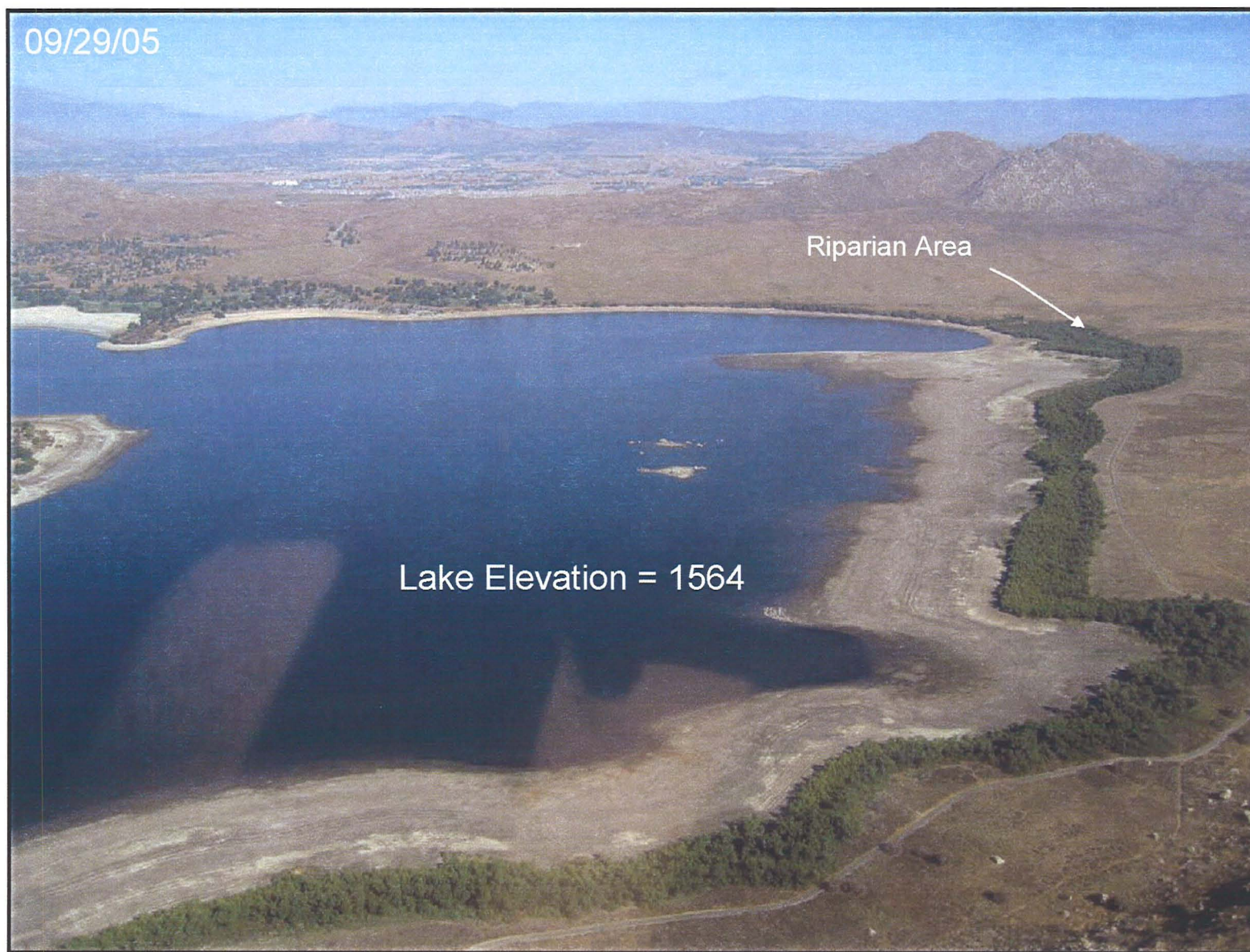




Figure 4.3 Residential Area Downstream of Dam

